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Ministry of Forests and Range

TL'ETINQOX-T'IN SECURE ACCESS TO CROWN TIMBER

VICTORIA – The Tl'etinqox-t'in First Nation will receive $3.4 million and access to 367,000 cubic metres of timber through a five-year forestry agreement reached with the Province, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"This agreement will help create new jobs and new economic opportunities for the Tl'etinqox-t'in people," said Coleman. "First Nations are important partners in our ongoing effort to recover as much economic value as possible from mountain pine beetle-attacked trees."

Timber for the agreement will come from the Williams Lake Timber Supply Area and will help support the band's harvesting company, Klatassine Resources Ltd. The Tl'etinqox-t'in will also supply logs to the Sigurdson Bros. Sawmill located in Hanceville. The company has been working with the First Nation for nearly 20 years, and currently employs 15 to 20 band members.

"The deal reached with the Province will strengthen our ties to the local forest industry and help support our long-term economic development goals," said Chief Gerald Johnny. "It also gives us a role in addressing the mountain pine beetle infestation within our traditional territory. We now have an opportunity to participate in managing resources, realizing we were not involved in the past. We appreciate the efforts and assistance from Sigurdson Bros. in moving forward on forest stewardship and employment for band members."

The Tl'etinqox-t'in First Nation, also known as the Anaham Band, is located 100 km west of Williams Lake near Alexis Creek.

Since 2002, the Province has reached agreements with 120 First Nations, sharing $158.8 million in revenue and providing access to 23.5 million cubic metres of timber.

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